

## ***FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** February 13, 2019

**Agenda Item:** 2019-20 CSKT Fishing and Hunting Regulations

**Division:** Fisheries and Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Endorsement

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 Min

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**Background:** The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) and the state of Montana have a cooperative management agreement on the Flathead Reservation that provides for presentation and approval of coordinated Tribal regulations and season frameworks for fishing and hunting regulations to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Tribal recommendations are first presented to the joint Flathead Reservation Fish and Wildlife Board (created under 87-1-228, MCA, and through subsequent state-tribal agreement), which votes on tentative proposals and opens them to general public review and comment. The board then meets for final adoption. Adopted final proposals are then presented to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council. Commission endorsement is subject to final Tribal Council approval. The Tribe is proposing the following changes for Non-Members for the 2019-20 regulation year:

- Increase costs of all types of Conservation Permits (yearly, short-term, combined and disabled, along with every resident category) by \$6.
- Approve the additional CSKT fishing license AIS Prevention Pass add on for all Reservation Fishing Stamps (current AIS fee for anglers is \$2 for Mt residents and \$15 for out of state residents). Approval will require, as stated in the MT/CSKT hunting and fishing agreement, all revenues derived from this fishing licensing requirement to be transferred to the CSKT conservation account for use on the Reservation resources.
- Daily creel limit for Brook Trout and Northern Pike increased to any number (no limit).
- The use of drones or any other remotely-operated devices to move, flush, or cause migratory waterfowl and other game birds as an aid in hunting of the species is prohibited.
- Add a “Special Youth Pheasant and Waterfowl Hunting Days” provision as follows: Special Youth Pheasant and Waterfowl Hunting Days, may be scheduled annually for a two-day weekend period prior to the opening day of pheasant and waterfowl hunting and conservation. Legally licensed youth hunters 12-15 years of age may hunt pheasants and legally huntable species of migratory waterfowl on these dates if accompanied in the field by a non-hunting adult at least 21 years of age. Youth hunters and accompanying adult must possess a valid Tribal Conservation Permit and Bird Hunting Stamp. In addition, youths 10 and 11 years of age that are certified as Apprentice Hunters under Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks’ Apprentice Hunter Program, and who have a Mentor who meets all criteria of the program, may also hunt during the Special Youth Pheasant and Migratory Waterfowl Days, as well as during the general hunting season for both. Mentors must possess a valid Tribal Conservation Permit and Bird Hunting Stamp. All youth hunting must comply with current bag and possession limits, shooting hours, hunter education, and all other applicable regulations that apply during the regular hunting seasons.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council and the Flathead Reservation Fish and Wildlife Board processes include public comment.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** None considered.

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale:** Recommend endorsement of 2019-20 Flathead Indian Reservation fishing and hunting regulations subject to Tribal Council approval.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move that the Fish & Wildlife Commission endorse the 2019-20 Flathead Indian Reservation fishing and hunting regulations as presented and subject to final Tribal Council approval.